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PROBLEM OF EXPOSE OF CIA CLANDESTINE  
YOUTH & STUDENT ACTIVITIES

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Mandatory Review  
Case # NLJ 96-185  
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1. It has been learned that <sup>X</sup>Ramparts, a California based monthly magazine, is planning to publish in its March issue an expose of CIA involvement with the <sup>X</sup>National Student Association and with a number of foundations which are either Agency owned organizations or cooperate extensively with the Agency. The Ramparts article will also probably mention CIA involvement with a number of other domestic private voluntary organizations, as well as with two or more international organizations in the youth & student field. Although the article will probably contain some false information, it will almost certainly accurately identify a number of ostensibly private foundations as funding channels used by the Agency in covert operations, and name a number of Agency employees who have been involved with clandestine youth and student operations.

2.

1.5(c)  
3.4(b)(1)

3. CIA has cooperated with and subsidized a number of domestic and international voluntary organizations in the youth and student field since the early 1950's. Assistance was given because the activities of these organizations served to counter the influence and propaganda of communist front groups in the youth and student field. Communist subversive activity was mainly directed at the youth of Asia, Africa and Latin America, and it was felt that in order to effectively present the democratic point of view in these areas it was necessary to work through non-governmental channels.

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4. CIA assistance to these pro-Western organizations was given at the request of the responsible officers of the groups involved. Their cooperation with CIA has always been wholly voluntary, and no effort was ever made by CIA to improperly influence their policy or their domestic activities. The subsidies they received from CIA were used only in international activities, and only in cases where assistance was necessary if the organizations were to be able to counter effectively the efforts of the international communist front groups.

5. It is considered likely that the Ramparts article will be picked up by respected domestic newspapers, such as the New York Times and the Washington Post, and that there will be an extended public controversy over CIA involvement with private voluntary organizations and foundations. The CIA will probably be accused of improperly interfering in domestic affairs, and of manipulating and endangering innocent young people. The Administration will probably come under attack for permitting this kind of activity. It is probable that the State Department and the White House will be asked to make statements about both CIA involvement with private voluntary organizations and about the use of private foundations as channels for clandestine funds.

6. The following people have been briefed on the problem posed by the Ramparts article:

Ambassador Kohler and Mr. Hughes of the State Department

Vice-President Humphrey and members of his staff

Mr. Cater and Mr. McPherson of the White House staff

Undersecretary Vance of the Defense Department

Senator Fulbright

7. CIA is in consultation with the current officers of the National Student Association as to the kind of statement they should issue before or after the appearance of the article. At present, it appears to CIA that the detail and accuracy of the article will be such that they will be obliged to make a partial admission, affirming that they have had occasional contact with the Agency and that they have received funds they knew to have originated with the Agency. Of course, the final decision on the National Student Association's statement will be made independently by the organization's officers.

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